

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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University of California

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M. D., Director



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GUY P. JONES  
Editor

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE

You have perhaps tried everywhere to obtain a copy of your birth certificate and have been unsuccessful. The Bureau of Vital Statistics at Sacramento receives thousands of requests each week from people who desire birth certificates but are unable to obtain them or do not know where to apply for them. If your birth occurred before July of 1905 it is useless to write to the State Bureau of Vital Statistics at Sacramento, for that bureau has no records for the period before July of 1905. Before that time, births were supposed to have been registered with the recorders of the various counties.

If you were born before July of 1905, you should write to the recorder of the county within which you were born. It should be understood that relatively few births were registered before 1905, although in some counties births were registered meticulously over a long period of years. If you were born since the State registration of births began, and if you wish to have the Bureau of Vital Statistics search for your certificate, you should send the legal fee of \$1, which includes a certified copy of the record if it is found on file. If the record is not found, a certificate of search will be sent to you, which may be useful, in some cases, as proof that the record of your birth is not officially on file.

Some people still think that if their birth was not registered within one year after the event, they can obtain registration by submitting affidavits and other documents to the State Bureau of Vital Statistics at Sacramento. At the present time, however, the bureau can not accept any such documents and is unable to make any record of the birth. If you have

no birth certificate, it would be advisable for you to have parents, attending physician, or blood relatives make affidavits and file them with the recorder of the county within which you were born. Certified copies of such affidavits issued by the recorder's office can be used in some instances, and if the proposed plan for delayed birth registration becomes effective in California, such affidavits will be of great value in the new procedure by which a delayed registration certificate may be issued.

*It should be understood, however, that this plan is not yet effective in California and no affidavits or other documentary evidence should be sent to Sacramento.* The suggestion is made that now is a good time to gather together all such affidavits, copies of baptismal or other church records, photostatic copies of family Bible records, together with any other evidence that might be useful to prove one's birth. With respect to affidavits, first importance should be attached to an affidavit executed by the attendant at the birth, and next in importance are affidavits executed by either or both parents.

Forms for affidavits are generally obtainable from county recorders. If not available, the information to be included in such a document should contain the name, sex, date and place of birth of the child; name, residence, age, color or race, birthplace and occupation of the father at the time of the birth of the child; maiden name, residence, age, color or race, birthplace and occupation of the mother at the time of the birth of the child. All individuals who may sign such affidavits should indicate their relationship to the child, in order that the affidavit may be clearer and



have added strength. It should be understood definitely, however, that no affidavit is a legal record of birth. It may be used in some cases when a legal record is not available but, at the present time, its most important use is that of documentary evidence that may lead to the possible provision of a legal record of birth.

School records have been useful to a great many people who desire to establish fact of birth in the courts or for other purposes associated with delayed registration or obtainment of employment. Baptismal records are kept faithfully in most Catholic parishes and the Episcopal churches keep accurate records of all baptisms. Many other denominations also file such records but most of the protestant churches, however, do not maintain adequate baptismal records for use in proof of age.

Applicants, however, should make every effort to obtain church records, whether baptismal, church membership, attendance, Sunday school registration or any other proof of age in connection with any church records.

In many communities it has been customary for local newspapers, either daily or weekly, to publish lists of all births that occurred recently in the community, together with the names of parents. By searching old newspaper files, many such printed announcements can be found. Copies of such announcements, certified, and, if possible, made by a photocopy process are of great value as documentary evidence.

Copies of insurance policies in which the names of children are mentioned have been accepted unconditionally as proof of age for the child. Sometimes such policies are not executed until a child becomes adolescent. Nevertheless, it is recognized that the standard insurance companies have carefully investigated all of their prospective policy holders and that the investigations have revealed the facts relative to age and place of birth.

Records of the U. S. Bureau of the Census are almost unobtainable because of the terrific demand that is made for copies of such records. The bureau at Washington, D. C. is overwhelmed with requests from individuals who desire to prove their age through evidence that is provided in the Census Bureau records. No Census Bureau records are available in any of the States, however, and they are obtainable only from the Director of the Bureau of the Census at Washington, D. C. Applications for data from the Census Bureau must be made upon a form that has been devised specially for the purpose and such application forms may be obtained from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in Sacramento for

execution and forwarding by the applicant to the Bureau of the Census at Washington. In making such request, definite information must be submitted. If the residence was in a city, a ward, street and house number should be provided as well as a description of the location of the city within the State. If residence was in the county, the county and township as well as the nearest post office with distance and direction therefrom must be named specifically. In making such application the names of parents, brothers and sisters should be given clearly, together with such other information as may be indicated by the Bureau of the Census.

School records often are obtainable from principals of schools attended by the applicant. If not available in the school attended, such records may be located in the offices of the city or county superintendent of schools.

Delayed registration of births has not yet been adopted in California and it is requested that no attempt be made to secure delayed registration until the plan becomes adopted in this State. A bill to provide for this procedure was defeated in the last session of the Legislature. It is believed, however, that with proper support, the 1943 Legislature will provide for delayed registration. The exact procedure to be followed in case delayed registration becomes effective in California will not be available until the bill to provide for it is enacted. Applicants, however, should begin at once to secure the various proofs of birth and age that have been outlined above, *but do not send them to Sacramento*. By having all such data ready, registration may be effected very quickly and more efficiently, if and when the proposed law is enacted. If the applicant waits until the law becomes effective he then encounters thousands of other individuals who are attempting to secure the same sort of service creating a tremendous rush in the offices of schools, churches and various governmental agencies.

If your birth was not registered within one year of the time that it occurred or if it is not on file at the present time, by all means use every available agency now to secure the necessary information.

All records of births in San Francisco that were filed prior to April 18, 1906, were destroyed in the fire of that date. Registration can be obtained in San Francisco only through the court procedure in establishment of fact of birth. If the delayed registration plan becomes effective in 1943, it will be necessary for some arrangement to be made by which individuals born in San Francisco but whose birth records were destroyed may obtain the delayed regis-



tration without great difficulty. Because of the fact that many church and school records and other supplementary records were destroyed in the fire, together with the birth records, considerable difficulty may be experienced.

Census Bureau records and newspaper announcements gathered from files in public libraries may be useful. At all events, individuals who were born in San Francisco should make every effort at the present time to obtain all documentary evidence that it may be possible to collect.

### BLOOD BANKS UNDER REGULATION

Under the provisions of Sections 1600 to 1621 of the Health and Safety Code, duties are imposed upon the California State Department of Public Health to supervise the manufacture and distribution of biologics in the State of California.

The provisions of this act apply to any laboratory, hospital or other agency that produces biologics for distribution outside its own institution.

It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Health that there is a movement throughout the State for the establishment of blood and plasma banks in various local hospitals.

In order to conserve human blood and to prevent wastage of human blood and in order to protect the public against accidents that may be involved in the use of contaminated or otherwise improperly prepared plasma or serum, the board (at its meeting, January 17, 1942) adopted regulations prescribing the minimum requirements for the production and distribution of unfiltered and filtered normal human plasma or serum.

Any hospital or other agency contemplating the establishment of such plasma or serum banks for distribution outside the confines of its own institution is required to be licensed by the State Board of Public Health. Requests for forms necessary for filing formal application should be directed to the Division of Laboratories, Room 3597 Life Sciences Building, Berkeley.

While hospitals that are establishing plasma or serum banks for their own use are not required to be licensed, nevertheless the minimum requirements established by the board are being transmitted to all hospitals in order that these requirements may be used as a guide in the production of plasma or serum for their own use.

Following the line of least resistance is what makes men and rivers crooked.—Blemis Blotter.

### STATE LABORATORY DOES TRICHINOSIS TESTS

The State Division of Laboratories announces that it is now equipped to do the following laboratory diagnostic tests for trichinosis:

#### 1. Examination of Suspected Food Material

Any food material suspected of being responsible for a trichinosis outbreak should be forwarded in a closed container to the State Laboratory where examination will be made for *Trichinella spiralis*.

#### 2. Diagnostic Tests Applicable to Material from the Patient

(a) Blood smears for demonstration of the eosinophiles: During the first week of the infection examinations are made for eosinophilic granules in neutrophils. Two to three weeks after infection the smears are examined for evidence of eosinophilia.

#### (b) Examination of the blood and spinal fluid:

1. The blood may be examined directly for the *Trichinella spiralis* larvae from seven to fifteen days from onset of infection. For this examination three cc of blood should be added to three cc of distilled water and the mixture forwarded to the laboratory.

Spinal fluid may also be examined for *Trichinella spiralis* larvae if eosinophilia and neurological symptoms indicate. Three to five cc of spinal fluid is sent to the laboratory for this test.

2. During the same period, examination may be made of blood serum for the presence of trichinosis antigen. For this examination five cc of blood should be placed in a tube and allowed to clot and mailed in to the laboratory. This test is of value during the first and second weeks of the infection and is still in the experimental stage. However, the laboratory will accept specimens for this examination.

3. Complement fixation and precipitin tests are of value from the fourth week on: For these tests five cc of blood should be collected in a tube, allowed to clot and transmitted to the laboratory.

(c) Biopsy and autopsy specimens: The laboratory is also equipped to examine biopsy specimens of muscle that may be taken from the patients. Autopsy material can also be examined for trichinae larvae, the diaphragm being the muscle of choice for this examination. The diaphragm should be placed in powdered boric acid and in a tin container. These containers can be obtained from this laboratory.

#### 3. Skin Test Antigen

It is anticipated that the Laboratory will also be able in the near future to provide skin test antigen. This is of value in diagnosis of infections of three weeks or more duration.



## MORBIDITY\*

## Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week Ending February 7, 1942

## Chickenpox

995 cases from the following counties: Alameda 122, Butte 9, Contra Costa 26, Del Norte 2, Fresno 61, Imperial 19, Kern 40, Kings 2, Lassen 2, Los Angeles 365, Madera 13, Marin 1, Merced 5, Monterey 13, Napa 2, Orange 11, Placer 2, Plumas 1, Riverside 18, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino 46, San Diego 78, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin 1, San Luis Obispo 2, San Mateo 13, Santa Barbara 24, Santa Clara 39, Santa Cruz 5, Shasta 4, Siskiyou 1, Solano 9, Sonoma 9, Stanislaus 3, Tehama 2, Tulare 9, Ventura 6, Yolo 6, Yuba 4.

## German Measles

289 cases from the following counties: Alameda 30, Fresno 10, Kern 16, Los Angeles 33, Marin 3, Merced 4, Monterey 4, Orange 2, Riverside 6, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 36, San Francisco 47, San Joaquin 12, San Luis Obispo 10, San Mateo 5, Santa Barbara 10, Santa Clara 25, Solano 1, Stanislaus 4, Sutter 2, Tulare 24, Ventura 1, Yolo 1.

## Measles

2788 cases from the following counties: Alameda 172, Amador 3, Butte 4, Colusa 43, Contra Costa 28, Del Norte 12, Fresno 498, Humboldt 16, Imperial 11, Kern 45, Kings 32, Los Angeles 394, Madera 30, Merced 7, Monterey 10, Napa 32, Orange 21, Plumas 1, Riverside 23, Sacramento 204, San Benito 1, San Bernardino 136, San Diego 158, San Francisco 39, San Joaquin 292, San Luis Obispo 9, San Mateo 7, Santa Barbara 115, Santa Clara 7, Santa Cruz 4, Siskiyou 4, Solano 25, Sonoma 7, Stanislaus 107, Sutter 46, Tulare 73, Ventura 70, Yolo 58, Yuba 44.

## Mumps

1596 cases from the following counties: Alameda 148, Colusa 46, Contra Costa 106, Del Norte 8, Fresno 38, Imperial 16, Kern 62, Kings 3, Lake 1, Lassen 4, Los Angeles 289, Madera 9, Marin 2, Monterey 37, Napa 1, Orange 81, Plumas 4, Riverside 32, Sacramento 74, San Bernardino 45, San Diego 115, San Francisco 120, San Joaquin 52, San Luis Obispo 32, San Mateo 11, Santa Barbara 13, Santa Clara 50, Santa Cruz 37, Shasta 5, Siskiyou 2, Solano 7, Sonoma 94, Stanislaus 5, Sutter 7, Tulare 3, Ventura 16, Yolo 21.

## Scarlet Fever

151 cases from the following counties: Alameda 11, Fresno 7, Kern 7, Los Angeles 656, Marin 1, Merced 1, Monterey 1, Orange 3, Placer 1, Riverside 6, Sacramento 5, San Bernardino 11, San Diego 14, San Francisco 3, San Luis Obispo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara 2, Santa Cruz 2, Sonoma 1, Stanislaus 3, Tulare 1, Yolo 1, California 2.\*\*

## Whooping Cough

301 Cases from the following counties: Alameda 14, Contra Costa 4, Fresno 34, Imperial 4, Kern 3, Kings 1, Los Angeles 67, Madera 3, Monterey 2, Orange 2, Plumas 16, Riverside 24, Sacramento 21, San Diego 22, San Francisco 6, San Joaquin 28, San Luis Obispo 6, San Mateo 5, Santa Barbara 4, Santa Clara 13, Santa Cruz 9, Solano 6, Sutter 1, Tulare 1, Ventura 3, Yolo 1, Yuba 1.

## Coccidioides Granuloma

One case from Tulare County.

## Diphtheria

18 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 10, Placer 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 4, San Joaquin 1.

## Dysentery (Bacillary)

4 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 3, Sonoma 1.

## Epilepsy

37 cases from the following counties: Alameda 2, Kern 1, Los Angeles 26, San Bernardino 3, San Francisco 2, Sonoma 3.

## Food Poisoning

One case from Los Angeles County.

## Influenza

207 cases reported in the State.

## Jaundice (Epidemic)

4 cases from Los Angeles County.

## Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case from Los Angeles County.

\* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

\*\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

## Poliomyelitis

One case from Monterey County.

## Rabies (Animal)

14 cases from the following counties: Fresno 1, Los Angeles 13.

## Rheumatic Fever

5 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 4, Siskiyou 1.

## Trichinosis

2 cases from Fresno County.

## Typhus Fever

2 cases from Los Angeles County.

## Undulant Fever

One case from Yolo County.

## DR. CHRISTIE GOES TO WASHINGTON

Dr. Amos Christie of San Francisco who has been a member of the California State Board of Health for the past two years has resigned and left for Washington, D. C., where he will be associated with the National organization of the American Red Cross. Dr. Christie has been connected with the Medical School of the University of California, San Francisco, for many years.

## DR. RINEHART APPOINTED TO BOARD

Dr. James F. Rinehart of the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, was appointed by Governor Olson, February 5, 1942, as a member of the California State Board of Public Health to succeed Dr. Amos Christie who is now with the American Red Cross in Washington, D. C.

"We know that sometimes a price must be paid for civilization and peace; and when madness and passion and the desertion of all the standards of decency and good faith bring a great agony to the world, it is sometimes the manifest duty and the high privilege of a free people, by the power of sacrifice and courage, to transmute that agony into a new salvation. In this war, we have no illusions about the strength of the enemy or the length of the war. We know that wars can not be won by abstract nouns and that tyrants can not be hanged by a string of adjectives. We have freely made our choice and we propose to abide by the issue with all free men until the end."

—Leonard W. Brockington (Canada)

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